

Payne * Theological * Seminary

—OF—

Wilberforce * University



AN ACCOUNT OF ITS

Origin, Organization and Object.

TOGETHER WITH

The Rules and Regulations of Government.

CHEW, PRINTER, XENIA, O.

Introduction.

The Board of Trustees of Wilberforce University at its session, June, 1890, on motion of Bishop A. Grant, made Bishop B. W. Arnett chairman of a committee to consider the propriety and feasibility of establishing a Theological Seminary at Wilberforce, to be a part of it, but to be controlled by a peculiar arrangement, so that it would be made more efficient than now. The following is the committee as completed :

Bishop B. W. Arnett, D. D. Wilberforce, O.
Bishop W. J. Gaines, D. D. Atlanta, Ga.
Bishop A. Grant, D. D. San Antonio, Texas.
Rev. J. A. Handy, D. D. Washington, D. C.
Rev. B. F. Lee, D. D., LL. D. Philadelphia, Pa.
Rev. T. H. Jackson, D. D. Wilberforce, O.
Prof. J. P. Shorter, A. M., LL. D. Wilberforce, O.

The subject of how to improve the facilities of the Theological Department, and how to get more persons to attend and thereby increase the power of the pulpit, were considered carefully and prayerfully. The growing demands of the Church, the imperative requirements and demands of the age, for trained and tried men to be the moral and spiritual leaders, were weighed by the committee, who came to the unanimous conclusion that unless the Church put forth some organized effort to perpetuate an intelligent ministry, that it would have to go to the rear of the procession of progress, and eventually lose its place, as the leader of the advanced guard of race redeemers. It was apparent to the committee that the magnitude of the work of the Church, and complexity of the organization, that those who were to control and manage it must be trained in the doctrine, laws, customs and history of the Church from its organization to the present, so that they could see its possibilities, and comprehend the work to be done in the future.

The plan of the committee was presented to the Trustee Board at its session June 18, 1891, and after some modifications, was unanimously adopted. The name chosen was

THE PAYNE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF WILBERFORCE.

This was given in honor of Bishop Daniel Alexander Payne, the senior bishop of the A. M. E. Church, who was born Feb. 24, 1811, in Charleston, S. C., a man who from early childhood has been engaged in the work of mind and soul training. He was the pioneer educator in the southland before the war. He was driven away from his home May 15, 1835, and found a home

in the North, and there he took the place of a leader of the leaders and has stood for fifty years without an equal or superior in the work of race redemption. He has lived to see a wonderful change in the work of education. When the work began, there were but few true and tried friends, now many leaders inside and outside of the Church *are* all champions of the cause of Christian education.

When the race was brought in contact with the duties of freemen, its only trained leaders were found in the Church. The demand on the Church was great for men to fill the places of honor, trust, emolument. The Church of God was the only place where the leading men of the race could find a field sufficiently large and free to demonstrate their executive ability and to qualify themselves to do the work of a freeman. But since that time, by the aid of the Churches and by the assistance of the benevolent men of the North, schools, seminaries and colleges have been opened and maintained to train men and women to be leaders in society, teachers in our public schools, to fill professional chairs in our colleges and to hold offices in Church and State. The states of the South have taken up the work and are laying on the altar of Universal Education some millions of dollars annually. The United States government has given her aid to the work of training her sons and daughters, without regard to race or color, to be teachers and skilled workmen in shop, factory and field, so that there are more than 1,147,000 children receiving instruction by the aid of the State or National government.

Now the first duty of the Church is to see that the pulpit keeps pace with the school-house. The children that attend school five days in the week and are trained by teachers—intelligent ones—by the improved methods, must have a man in the pulpit that is equal to his duty and responsibility. Minister and schoolmaster must be *friends* and companions in learning and morals. The pulpit must not be lower than the teacher's platform, and the communication ought to be full and free between them.

Having this view in our mind, there was only one path for us to tread, that was the path of duty, and we unanimously resolved that we would lay the foundation of an institution for the training of those who are to fill our pulpits in the future. Then there was another consideration that prompted us to act. That was, that it is a fitting time for the ministry of the Church, to begin the work of preparing their own successors, the time for them to lay something on the altar of education, the time to lift a monument to the memory of those who have gone before us—to build on the foundation laid by such men as M. T. Newsome, M. J. Wilkerson, J. M. Brown, E. D. Davis, Lewis Woodson, Abram D. Lewis, Leven Gross, and to add to the superstructure built by Payne, Shorter, Mitchell, R. A. Johnson, J. P. Underword, P. Tolliver, Alfred J. Anderson, John A. Clarke, B. F. Lee, and we knew that such men as Robertson of Georgia, Mixon and Cheeks of Alabama, Burks of Kentucky, Johnson of Arkansas, and hundreds of laymen, such as Beaufort and Dickerson of Springfield, Holland and Maxwell of Xenia. All would stand by us and assist in doing two things at once, to make a

home for our young ministers and show our appreciation of the life work of Daniel Alexander Payne. We now call on all lovers of education to assist us by their prayers, sympathy and money. Let every man, woman and child contribute something to the purchasing of the Payne Theological Seminary.

It is expected that every Annual Conference will join the advancing column of knowledge by sending a liberal contribution, to assist in paying for this building and grounds. If they do it will not be long before we will have returning annually to the ministerial rank a number of men, called of God, led by the spirit, and trained to lead the race and to govern wisely the Church of God.

The Roll of Honor and usefulness will be hung on the walls of the building, which is to be known as "The Mitchell Hall." The names of all who contribute will be printed in letters of gold, so that the coming generations may know the names of those who had faith in God, the possibilities of the race, and gave of their means to purchase and establish an institution whose moral and religious influences will continue to increase from generation to generation and to bless mankind from age to age.

It is to be hoped that we will have the names of every minister in the connection. Let this building and grounds be a testimonial to the love of the ministry for the sacred cause of education. Who give year by year more money than any other class of men in the Church or out of it for education and missions. Now let every one give to this worthy object, and the Church and the world will see what we are doing for God and man.

All the former pupils of Bishop Payne are expected to join with his other friends and admirers in paying for this institution of learning, so that he may have some idea of the appreciation of the present generation.

Send your money by Postal orders or checks to Prof. J. P. Shorter, Wilberforce, O., and show our high appreciation of the Pioneer Educator of the race.

LIST OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR '91-'92.

OFFICERS.

President	Bishop B. W. Arnett, Wilberforce, O
Vice-President	Rev. J. C. Embry, D. D., Philadelphia, Pa
Secretary	Rev. J. P. Maxwell, Wilberforce, O
Treasurer	Prof. J. P. Shorter, A. M., LL. D., Wilberforce, O
Attorney	C. L. Maxwell, LL. B. Xenia, O

DIRECTORS.

Bishop D. A. Payne, D. D., LL. D.	Wilberforce, O
Bishop A. W. Wayman, D. D.	Baltimore, Md
Bishop J. P. Campbell, D. D., LL. D.	Philadelphia, Pa
Bishop T. M. D. Ward, D. D.	St. Joseph, Mo
Bishop J. M. Brown, D. D., D. C. L.	Washington, D. C

Bishop H. M. Turner, D. D., LL. D.	Atlanta, Ga
Bishop W. J. Gaines, D. D.	Atlanta, Ga
Bishop B. W. Arnett, D. D.	Wilberforce, O
Bishop B. T. Tanner, D. D.	Philadelphia, Pa
Bishop A. Grant, D. D.	San Antonio, Texas
1st District, 2 years—Rev. A. W. Upshaw, B. D.	Camden, N. J
2d District, 2 years—Rev. J. G. Mitchell, D. D.	Norfolk, Va
3d District, 1 year—Rev. B. F. Lee, D. D., LL. D.	Philadelphia, Pa
4th District, 1 year—Rev. J. T. Jenifer, D. D.	Chicago, Ill
5th District, 1 year—Rev. J. C. Embry, D. D.	Philadelphia, Pa
6th District, 4 years—Rev. S. H. Robertson, D. D.	Atlanta, Ga
7th District, 2 years—Rev. R. E. Wall, D. D.	Columbia, S. C
8th District, 3 years—Rev. W. T. Anderson, B. D., M. D.	Vicksburg, Miss
9th District, 3 years—Rev. A. M. Green, A. M., D. D.	New Orleans, La
10th District, 3 years—Rev. S. R. Reed	Memphis, Tenn
11th District, 2 years—Rev. Amos Johnson	Toronto, Canada

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Bishop B. W. Arnett, Chairman, Bishop W. J. Gaines, Bishop J. M. Brown, Dr. J. T. Jenifer, Dr. B. F. Lee, Dr. R. E. Wall, Dr. John G. Mitchell,

The committee to prepare laws, rules and regulations for the government of the Payne Theological Seminary are Bishop B. T. Tanner, Dr. B. F. Lee, Dr. J. C. Embry, Rev. A. W. Upshaw, and Dr. T. W. Anderson.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PLAN OF ORGANIZATION AND ITS RECOMMENDATIONS.

We, your committee to whom was referred the subject of a Theological Department at Wilberforce University, after due consideration and deliberation, presented our plan to the Council of Bishops, at Jacksonville, Fla., Feb. 28, 1891. It was unanimously approved, and Bishops H. M. Turner, D. A. Payne and John M. Brown were appointed a committee to co-operate with your committee in completing plans for organization.

At the meeting of the Financial Board April 30, 1891, the subject was laid before them, they heartily approved and endorsed the plan, and passed resolutions authorizing the Financial Secretary to co-operate with us and to establish scholarships as fast as the funds in the treasury would permit. We therefore recommend the following plan of organization.

Recommendation first. (See Plan.)

The second recommendation is that the homestead of Rev. John G. and Fannie A. Mitchell be purchased for a Theological Seminary, and that it be controlled as provided for in the plan of organization.

Third. We recommend that an appeal be made to the ministers of the A. M. E. Church and the friends of Christian education to contribute their means for the purchase of this building, in order that we may provide for an educated ministry which is the demand of the age in which we live.

Fourth. We recommend that the directors when elected be requested to make arrangements in such a manner that the building may be set apart at the Commencement, June, 1892.

Fifth. We recommend that the Board of Directors ask the General Conference to make such provisions for the support of professorships* and scholarships as they may deem proper.

Plan of Organization.

NAME AND TITLE.

The Payne Theological Seminary of Wilberforce University.

OBJECT.

The object shall be to educate persons for the Christian ministry and missionaries for the redemption of Africa and other foreign lands.

GOVERNMENT.

The government of said Seminary is hereby vested in a Board of Directors, to be composed of the Bishops of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and one other person for each Episcopal District.

TERM OF OFFICE.

The persons representing Episcopal Districts shall be chosen by the Board of Trustees of Wilberforce University, and shall hold their office, three for one year, four for two years and four for three years, and annually thereafter the Board of Trustees aforesaid shall elect such members as shall be required to have one member for each Episcopal District, who shall hold their office for three years. In case of death, resignation or otherwise the Board of Directors shall have power to fill all vacancies, and persons thus appointed shall hold office until the next meeting of the Board of Trustees of said University, when such vacancy shall be filled by said Board.

QUORUM.

After due notice of a meeting has been given nine (9) persons shall constitute a quorum.

OFFICERS.

The officers shall consist of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and an Executive Committee of five (5), all of whom shall be elected and hold their office for two years.